

## CLONING OF RHADINOVIRUS GENOME AND METHODS FOR ITS USE

### Abstract

B2 A novel rhesus macaque rhadinovirus, herein designated RRV, is disclosed. The genomic, cDNA and protein sequences are provided. RRV has some similarity to human Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpesvirus and causes Kaposi's sarcoma-like symptoms in immuno-compromised non-human primates. RRV possesses genes for both Interleukin-6 and macrophage inflammatory protein 1. The genome of RRV is useful for research, clinical and diagnostic applications aimed towards the rhadinoviruses and herpesviruses in general, and KSHV in particular. In addition, methods for using RRV to produce a non-human primate model for the testing of Kaposi's sarcoma-associated herpesvirus therapeutics and vaccines are presented.

### REMARKS

The specification has been amended herein to insert Applicants' claim of priority and to insert the Abstract, originally included in the first page of the international application, as the last page of the specification.

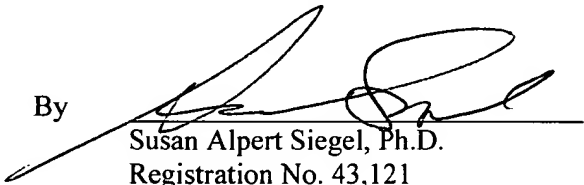
The priority claim was set forth in the cover sheet that accompanied the patent application and the cover sheet of the PCT application that was submitted with the application as filed. In addition, the priority claim was set forth in the declaration that accompanied the patent application. No new matter has been added.

If any matters still need to be discussed prior to examination of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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